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DEWEY MADDOX of Appomattox bagged a 19½ pound turkey Wednesday morning of last week. The gobbler had a 11½ inch beard and was the largest turkey Maddox has ever killed . . . he says it was also the smartest.

Need Legal Evidence That You Exist? Census Bureau Can Help

Was your birth registered? Unless you have documentation you'll get nowhere protesting as Will Rogers once did: "I can't prove I was born, but you can't deny I'm here."

A total of 320,899 persons in the United States who found themselves in that predicament in 1974 turned to the U. S. Bureau of the Census for help. (The Bureau is part of the U. S. Department of Commerce's Social and Economic Statistics Administration.)

More than two-thirds of applicants receiving help from the Census Bureau in 1974 lived in 11 southern states: Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, Virginia, Arkansas, Florida, and Texas.

Persons unable to obtain a birth certificate may have been born before 1920, before birth registration became mandatory in every state. Or their birth record may have been accidentally destroyed by flood or fire, or simply never recorded. Or they may have been unable to obtain a delayed birth certificate because they couldn't lay their hands on acceptable evidence of their birth such as a baptismal certificate, a family Bible in which their birth was chronicled, or an affidavit from the attending doctor or midwife.

Every ten years in years ending in zero, as you know, the Bureau of the Census takes a population census, gathering facts about every human being in the country. Realizing how valuable this information might be to anybody called upon to prove his existence, the Bureau wisely established its Personal Census Service Branch, more commonly known as the Age Search Branch, which will send anyone who applies for it a transcript of his own census record from the census year that will best serve his needs.

For example, born in 1905 who wants certification of his age would probably be sent a copy of his census record from the decennial census of 1910. The record would not contain his birth date, but it would show him as having been five years old in 1910, which is just as good. He can then present this record as supporting evidence when applying to the State in which he was born for a delayed birth certificate. Or he can use it in lieu of a birth certificate. Census records are now accepted as a substitute by all Federal and State agencies and by virtually all of private industry.

Since 1920, when the Age Search Branch was established, nearly 10 million persons have taken advantage of this unique service. Currently, approximately 350,000 requests are received annually, a total that comes to about 1,300 daily.

People write in for documentary evidence of age for reasons of employment, retirement, driver's license, insurance, military service, income tax, marriage, voter registration, welfare benefits, even Little League baseball - anything that requires evidence of age. The Social Security Administration and the Railroad Retirement Board Agency both place great reliance on census records, and they assist many persons each year in obtaining acceptable evidence of age through census records.

Census records can also give evidence of citizenship for passport purposes, of occupation (for example black lung benefits for coal miners), and of relationship for estates or inheritances, insurance, DAR membership, family records, and other genealogical purposes.

All information in census records is confidential by law. The Bureau of the Census and every one of its employees is prohibited by Federal law from disclosing any information contained in the census records except to the person himself, or for a proper purpose, to a legal representative.

Information about a minor child may be obtained upon written request of either parent. For records pertaining to a deceased person, the application may be signed by a blood relative in the immediate family, the surviving spouse, a beneficiary, or the administrator of the estate and in all cases, a death certificate must be furnished.

A fee of $7.50 is charged for a search of two censuses and a transcript of the information found. Additional copies of the transcript cost $1.00 each. Service generally requires two to four weeks. A fee is charged because the Age Search Branch self-supporting. It does not receive any tax monies.

Persons needing proof of age for Social Security purposes should apply to their local Social Security office. Others should write to the Personal Census Service Branch, Bureau of the Census, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762, for an application form.

REVIVAL TO BEGIN AT EVERGREEN BAPTIST

The Rev. Jess Dittmar, evangelist from Bartlesville, Oklahoma, will be the guest minister when revival services begin at Evergreen Baptist Church on May 4, 1975 and continue through May 11.

Rev. Dittmar was area missionary in the Wabash Association in Indiana for many years. Prior to that time he was area missionary in Oklahoma. For the past five years he has been engaged in fulltime evangelism.

The public is cordially invited to come and worship at these services beginning nightly at 7:30 p.m.

Pamplin

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Richardson and Sabrina entertained at their home Sunday night after church.

Those present were Rev. and Mrs. Don Wagner and Gary; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ranson; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Dickerson and Ricky and Donna; Mrs. Ernie Roach; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Richardson; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Richardson, Ronnie and Michael; Mr. and Mrs. Otis Richardson; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Almond, Timmy and Jane and Miss Cassie Baldwin.

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The Sunday School Lesson

HERBERT C. BRADSHAW
P. O. Box 1833
Durham, N.C. 27702

Comment on the International Sunday School lesson for Sunday, May 4, 1975
Topic: The Presence of God
Scripture: Psalm 139
Thou searchest out my path and my lying down,
and art acquainted with all my ways. Psalm 139-3

The glory of the theology of ancient Israel is its concept of God. It taught that there is only one God, who is a living Person, who created the universe and all that is in it and gave it order and being, who is not limited by time and space, who is Lord of the universe and of history, yet who is very near His people. Such a concept is found throughout the Old Testament and is nobly expressed, in a hymn written in 1848, by the American poet, Oliver Wendell Holmes, not as a historical description but as a contemporary word portrait of God:

"Lord of all being, throned afar,
Thy glory flames from sun
and star;
Center and soul of every
sphere,
Yet to each loving heart how
near!"

Such a concept of God is all the more remarkable because it contrasts strongly with the theological ideas of the neighbors of Israel. Although the prophets of ancient Israel and the theologians of Christianity write of God in anthropomorphic terms, the God they write about is vastly different from the anthropomorphic gods of the ancient world. The ancient Hebrew saw man as created in the image of God. His neighbors created gods and goddesses in their image with all the emotions, passions, and even some of the frailties of men and women. The ancient Hebrew saw God as possessing certain emotions found in human beings, but they are emotions to express His perfection in goodness, holiness, and love.

For all His limitless power and infinite majesty, for all His transcendence of time and space, God is very near His people. He warned Noah of the impending flood and advised him how to escape its destruction. He called Abraham from the center of culture and civilization, Ur of the Chaldees, to the life of a nomad and promised him the land of his sojourning. He saw the affliction of the people of Israel in slavery in Egypt, raised up a deliverer in the person of Moses, and brought them out of bondage into freedom. He was with them in their wandering. His presence symbolized in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. He spoke to His people through His prophets. He blessed them as they kept their obligations to the covenant, and He disciplined them when they were disobedient and faithless to their obligations.

Not all the people of ancient Israel subscribed to so exalted a view of god. Many of them were influenced, in their concept of deity, by the theologies of neighboring peoples and the earlier inhabitants of the land in which they settled. From these, many Israelities took the concept of a god whose power and authority were limited to a particular area. When the Israelites came out of the wilderness, the people of Canaan did not question the reality of their God, but considered Him a god of the wilderness, without power in Canaan, and so persuaded many in Israel.

But the great religious leaders of Israel, from Moses through the prophets, believed and taught the high concept of the one God, the living Lord of earth and history, unrestricted by time and space, yet personally involved with His people. Psalm 139 beautifully and sublimely portrays not only the nearness of God to each individual, but also His presence everywhere. What a contrast to the view that when a person left a given region, he left behind also the god of the region. "If I take the wings of the morning (an expression which connotes traveling with the speed and to the extent of light) and dwell in the uttermost parts of the farthest places, a person can go, but hand shall lead right hand shall hold. matter where I cannot get away presence of God. Jonah learned through experience.

The presence of His people gives steadfast love. It one of the great Old Testament.

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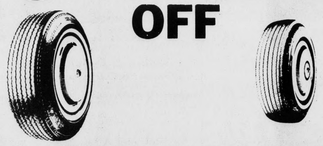

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photo by Robert McClenny

...NAL AGRICULTURE STUDENTS **learn how** ...n eroding slope at Appomattox County High ...to right, Reggie Franklin, Kenneth Franklin, ...Tom Hix, and Cecil Booker anchor straw mulch ...and twine method. Albert Carter, vo-ag ...Bob McClenny, Soil Conservation Services, ...conservation project.

Cannery Workshop

...Wood (left) checks clearances on sealer part ...can sealer by Ed Franklin (center), Concord ...ructor and Billy Perrow (right), agricultural ...the Appomattox County High School. Cannery ...from eleven counties participated in the two-day ...ment workshop in the Appomattox Elementary ...23. Workshop was held in preparation for 1975 ...season.

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